



Environmental Quality and Lawnmowers Fact Sheet

- ❖ There are 4.6 million small garden engines in California (half of these are gasoline powered mowers).¹
- ❖ Many small-engine products are powered by polluting two-stroke engines, some of which emit as much as 25% raw, unburned gasoline into the environment.²
- ❖ Lawn and garden equipment generates an estimated 10 tons of air pollution every day in the Bay Area.³
- ❖ New electric lawnmowers reduce pollution from conventional gasoline lawnmowers by over 90%.³
- ❖ A two-stroke gasoline engine lawnmower generates as much air pollution in one hour as driving 40 1995 cars for the same amount of time.¹
- ❖ Running a two-stroke engine commercial chainsaw for two hours produces the same amount of smog-forming hydrocarbon emissions as driving ten 1995 cars 250 miles each.³
- ❖ By 2010, California's small engine regulations will reduce hydrocarbon (HC) and nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by 74% for chainsaws and weed trimmers and by 67% for lawnmowers²
- ❖ Refueling of lawn and garden equipment results in the spilling of 17 million gallons of fuel each year (more spillage than in the Exxon Valdez accident).¹
- ❖ The typical 1,000 square-foot lawn produces 300 pounds of fresh grassclippings each year; this can be diverted from the waste stream using a mulching mower.⁴

¹ Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

² Air Resources Board Fact Sheet, 1998

³ Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 1998.

⁴ California Integrated Waste Management Board, 1999